

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 10105-2 | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT/CA 99/00520 | International filing date (day/month/year) 04/06/1999 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) |
| Applicant KOZLOWSKI, Henry | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of **5** sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- applicant failed to suggest
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA 99/00520

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-20

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-20

Radiation source assembly and methode for use with a fluid comprising a radiation source adapted to be immersed in said liquid, excitation controlling means adapted to be immersed in the fluid and a frame member having a potion adapted to be immersed in the fluid.

2. Claims: 21-25

Means for transmitting electrical power and electrical signals to a plurality of devices receiving electrical power or electrical signals.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/A 99/00520

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C02F1/32 F21V19/00 B01J19/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 C02F B01J A61L F21P F21V

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US 5 019 256 A (IFILL LEE ET AL) 28 May 1991 (1991-05-28) cited in the application column 6, line 58-64; figures | 1-10, 16, 20 |
| A | --- | 11-15, 17-19 |
| X | US 5 412 549 A (BLAKELY MARK K) 2 May 1995 (1995-05-02) column 3, line 3-10; figure 6 | 1, 2, 4 |
| A | --- | 1-10, 16-20 |
| A | DE 196 53 083 A (WEDECO GMBH) 25 June 1998 (1998-06-25) the whole document | 1-10, 16-20 |
| A | EP 0 811 579 A (TROJAN TECHN INC) 10 December 1997 (1997-12-10) the whole document | 1-10, 16, 20 |
| | --- | -/- |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 February 2000

29.09.00

Netherlands Patent Office
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Authorized Officer

Gruber, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/ 99/00520

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 539 209 A (MAARSCHALKERWEIRD JAN M) 23 July 1996 (1996-07-23) the whole document --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | US 5 792 433 A (KADOYA MASAHIRO) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) the whole document --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | US 4 825 083 A (JOHNSON JOHN A ET AL) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) figures 1,3,5,6 --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | DE 197 36 631 C (HANSA METALLWERKE AG) 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29) column 4, line 10-24; figure 1 ----- | 1,11,16, 17,20 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 99/00520

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|--|---|------------------|---|--|
| US 5019256 | A | 28-05-1991 | CA 2047084 A | 20-04-1992 |
| US 5412549 | A | 02-05-1995 | NONE | |
| DE 19653083 | A | 25-06-1998 | AU 6480298 A WO 9827011 A EP 0946424 A | 15-07-1998 25-06-1998 06-10-1999 |
| EP 0811579 | A | 10-12-1997 | US 5418370 A AU 6153194 A BR 9406347 A DE 69408441 D DE 69408441 T EP 0687201 A FI 954134 A JP 8509905 T NO 953451 A NZ 262088 A PL 310528 A PL 177739 B PL 177744 B RO 114754 A SK 109195 A US 5590390 A AT 162956 T AU 9610098 A CA 2117040 A,C CA 2239925 A WO 9420208 A CN 1121320 A CZ 9502264 A ES 2115937 T HU 76196 A,B IL 108709 A IL 121308 A IL 121309 A NZ 328583 A US 5539210 A ZA 9401096 A | 23-05-1995 26-09-1994 13-02-1996 12-03-1998 17-09-1998 20-12-1995 04-09-1995 22-10-1996 01-09-1995 19-12-1997 27-12-1995 31-01-2000 31-01-2000 30-07-1999 03-04-1996 31-12-1996 15-02-1998 22-07-1999 06-09-1994 06-09-1994 15-09-1994 24-04-1996 17-04-1996 01-07-1998 28-07-1997 04-01-1998 20-06-1999 09-05-1999 28-01-1999 23-07-1996 16-09-1994 |
| US 5539209 | A | 23-07-1996 | AT 188679 T AU 706058 B AU 3647495 A BR 9509369 A CA 2160729 A WO 9611880 A CN 1168659 A CZ 9701162 A DE 69514539 D EP 0788463 A FI 971560 A HU 77069 A HU 77322 A JP 10509373 T NO 971702 A NZ 403208 A | 15-01-2000 10-06-1999 06-05-1996 07-07-1998 18-04-1996 25-04-1996 24-12-1997 15-10-1997 17-02-2000 13-08-1997 14-04-1997 02-03-1998 30-03-1998 14-09-1998 05-06-1997 20-05-1998 |
| US 5792433 | A | 11-08-1998 | JP 8243554 A | 24-09-1996 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/A 99/00520

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| US 5792433 A | | JP | 8243555 A | 24-09-1996 |
| US 4825083 A | 25-04-1989 | US | 4757205 A | 12-07-1988 |
| | | CA | 1287967 A | 27-08-1991 |
| | | EP | 0249450 A | 16-12-1987 |
| DE 19736631 C | 29-04-1999 | AU | 8975098 A | 16-03-1999 |
| | | WO | 9910282 A | 04-03-1999 |
| | | EP | 1012118 A | 28-06-2000 |

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

REC'D 12 SEP 2001
 WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 10105-2 WJG | FOR FURTHER ACTION | | See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) |
| International application No. PCT/CA99/00520 | International filing date (day/month/year) 04/06/1999 | Priority date (day/month/year) 04/06/1999 | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C02F1/32 | | | |
| Applicant KOZLOWSKI, Henry | | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 11/12/2000 | Date of completion of this report 10.09.2001 |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 | Authorized officer Veronesi, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8348 |



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA99/00520

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1-8,10-14 | as originally filed | | |
| 9a | as received on | 23/12/2000 with letter of | 13/12/2000 |
| 9 | with telefax of | 25/04/2001 | |

Claims, No.:

| | | |
|------|-----------------|------------|
| 1-32 | with telefax of | 25/04/2001 |
|------|-----------------|------------|

Drawings, sheets:

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1/6-6/6 | as originally filed |
|---------|---------------------|

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA99/00520

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
 the claims, Nos.:
 the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application.
 claims Nos. 28-32.

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 28-32.
2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:
- the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
 the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA99/00520

citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-27
No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-27
No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-27
No: Claims

**2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet**

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/CA99/00520

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The document D1 [*US-A-5 019 256 (IFILL LEE ET AL) 28 May 1991*, cited in the application] describes (cf. Fig.) a radiation source assembly for use in a photochemical treatment of waste water, comprising a plurality of ultraviolet lamps adapted to be immersed in the water, an elongate frame member connected to the lamps and the ballasts and adapted to be immersed in the water and electrical conducting means. The ballasts may be housed in a waterproof enclosure located under deflector D on the rack (col. 6, l. 61-64); according to Fig. 2 the deflector D is immersed in the water; thus, the ballasts are adapted to be immersed in and cooled by the water.

The assembly and the process of present application are novel because the excitation controlling means are mechanically connected and adjacent to each radiation source.

Such an arrangement, which allows an easy replacement of the ballasts, is not suggested by the prior art.

The claims 1-27 appear therefore to satisfy the requirements of Art. 33 PCT.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
2. The description is not in conformity with the claims as required by Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT.

Further aspects of the invention are as follows:

A radiation source assembly for use in a photochemical treatment of a fluid, comprising:

5 at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use;

an excitation controlling means mechanically and electrically connected to each radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adjacent to the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in and cooled
10 by said fluid when the assembly is in use;

an elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use, the frame member being connected to at least one of the ultraviolet lamp and the excitation controlling means; and

15 electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.

A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals, in the form of a laminate which comprises:

20 a plurality of elongated electrically conducting members, each with a plurality of connectors at spaced apart intervals along the member, said electrically conducting members having an electrically insulating material between the members.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a partial side view of a single modular UV lamp rack assembly in accordance with the invention.

25 Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of a ballast and associated connections in accordance with the invention.

Figure 3, which is located between Figures 1 and 2, is an end view of a ballast used in Figure 2.

30 Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of a vertical conduit in a UV lamp rack assembly, useful in the present invention.

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of a ballast and lamp which has an outer sleeve attached to a submersible conduit.

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of a ballast and an associated lamp which are separately attached to a submersible conduit.

9a

Figure 7 is an exploded view of a laminate useful as an electrical conduit for use in the present invention.

Figure 8 is a front view of the laminate of Figure 7, with connecting apertures 5 therein.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Figure 1, there is an ultraviolet lamp rack 10 which has a vertical conduit 11, a vertical support member 12 and a bar 13. Located between vertical 10 conduit 11 and vertical member 12 are a plurality of ultraviolet lamps 14 encased in transparent sleeves 15 (partially seen in Figure 2), with associated ballasts 16 and caps 18. The sleeves 15 are made from a material which permits passage of ultraviolet light. A preferred material is quartz glass. The ultraviolet lamps 14 and ballasts 16 are submerged in liquid 66, e.g waste water. The surface of the liquid is shown at 17 15 and in Figure 1 is beneath bar 13.

Figure 2 shows the arrangement of one of the ballasts 16. Ballast 16 has internal components 22 encased in sleeve 21. At one end of ballast 16 there are female electrical connectors 20 for cooperation with electrical pins 19 on ultraviolet

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIMS:

1. A radiation source assembly for use in a photochemical treatment of a fluid, comprising:
 - 5 at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use;
 - an excitation controlling means mechanically and electrically connected to each radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adjacent to the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in and cooled by said fluid when the assembly is in use;
 - 10 an elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use, the frame member being connected to at least one of the ultraviolet lamp and the excitation controlling means;
 - 15 and
 - electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.
2. The radiation source assembly of Claim 1 wherein said radiation source is an elongated ultraviolet lamp.
- 20
3. The radiation source assembly of Claim 2 wherein the excitation controlling means is a ballast electrically connected to the ultraviolet lamp.
- 25
4. The radiation source assembly of Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein the fluid into which the ultraviolet lamp is adapted to be immersed is water, said ultraviolet lamp and ballast being adapted to be immersed in and cooled by said water when the assembly is in use.
- 30
5. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-4 wherein the ultraviolet lamp has an ultraviolet-transparent sleeve.

6. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-5 wherein the excitation controlling means is a ballast and is supported by said elongate frame member.

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7. The radiation source assembly of Claim 6 wherein the ballast is elongate and has first and second opposed ends, the first end of which is mounted on a portion of the first elongate frame member which is to be immersed in the liquid, the ultraviolet lamp has first and second opposed

10 ends, the first end of each ultraviolet lamp being connected to the second end of the corresponding ballast.

15 8. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-7 wherein the electrical conducting means includes, for each excitation controlling means, an electrical wire which extends from the excitation controlling means to a location which is not immersed in the fluid.

20 9. The radiation source assembly any one of Claims 2-8 wherein the assembly has a further elongate frame member, and the second end of each associated ultraviolet lamp is supported by said further elongate frame member.

25 10. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-9 wherein the first elongate frame member is tubular with an outer wall and wherein there is, for each excitation controlling means, a support with an externally threaded tubular stub surrounding an access aperture through the outer wall, the excitation controlling means having an external retaining ring fixed adjacent the first end thereof, the assembly further comprising an internally threaded coupling for engaging the stub and the retaining ring, so as to move the stub 30 and the ring toward each other, and a resilient sealing member between the stub and the coupling such that the retaining ring is pressed against the

exterior of the excitation controlling means when the coupling is tightened.

11. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-10 wherein the assembly has an ultraviolet transparent sleeve surrounding each ultraviolet lamp, said sleeve having one open end and one closed end, and a coupling which sealingly supports the open end of said sleeve from the second end of the excitation controlling means.
5
12. The radiation source assembly of Claim 11 wherein the ultraviolet transparent sleeve is quartz.
10
13. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-12 wherein said assembly has a submersible frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use and having a plurality of supports, each support providing support for at least one of a) an ultraviolet lamp, b) an ultraviolet-transparent sleeve for the ultraviolet lamp and c) an excitation controlling means.
15
14. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-13 wherein (i) the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said ballast having a second end opposed to a first end, and said ballast having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast and support having connection means for mechanically connecting the first end of the ballast to the support,
20 (ii) the ultraviolet lamp has first and second opposed ends, said lamp and ballast having connection means for mechanically and electrically connecting the first end of the lamp to the second end of the ballast; and (iii) the assembly has means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid.
25

30

15. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-13 wherein (i)

the ultraviolet lamp has connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support, (ii) the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together, and (iii) the assembly has sealing means for sealing the lamp and ballast against direct contact with the liquid.

16. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-13 wherein (i) the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together, (ii) the assembly has a sleeve covering and sealing the lamp and ballast against direct contact with the liquid, and (iii) the assembly has connection means for mechanically connecting the sleeve means to the support.

17. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-13 wherein (i) the excitation controlling means is a ballast having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast having connection means for mechanically connecting the ballast to the support, and (ii) the ultraviolet lamp has connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support separately from the ballast, and means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together.

18. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-17 wherein the tubular elongate frame member contains electrical conducting means and the ballast is removably coupled, electrically, to the power transmission means.

19. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-18 wherein each excitation controlling means is a ballast, each lamp has an ultraviolet transparent sleeve and there is a screw coupling with a liquid tight seal between the lamp, sleeve and ballast.

20. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-19 wherein the electrical conducting means comprises a laminate having a plurality of elongated electrical conducting members, each member having a plurality of electrical connectors at spaced apart intervals along the member, said laminate having electrically insulating material between the members.
- 5
21. The radiation source assembly of Claim 20 wherein each electrically conducting member is sandwiched between electrically insulating strips, at least one of the strips having notches at spaced apart intervals along the strip for receiving connectors therein.
- 10
22. The radiation source assembly of Claim 21 wherein the connectors are spring clip connectors for connecting with electrically conducting pins.
- 15
23. The radiation source assembly of any one of Claims 2-22 wherein there are a plurality of ultraviolet lamps.
- 20
24. A process for treating liquids with ultraviolet light comprising passing the liquid over a radiation source and ballast assembly of any one of Claims 1-23 said assembly being at least partially immersed in the liquid.
- 25
25. The process of Claim 24 wherein the assembly is immersed in the liquid.
26. The process of Claim 24 or Claim 25 wherein the liquid is water.
27. The process of Claim 26 wherein the water is waste water.
- 30
28. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals, in the form of a laminate which comprises:

a plurality of elongated electrically conducting members, each with a plurality of connectors at spaced apart intervals along the member, said electrically conducting members having an electrically insulating material between the members.

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29. The means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals of Claim 28 wherein the electrically insulating material is in the form of strips, each electrically conducting member being sandwiched between two electrically insulating strips, and at least one of the strips has notches at spaced apart intervals along the strip, wherein the connectors are housed in the notches.

10 30. The means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals of Claim 28 or Claim 29 wherein there are first and second elongated electrically 15 conducting members, said first electrically conducting member being sandwiched between first and second electrically insulating members and said second electrically conducting member being sandwiched between second and third electrically insulating members.

20 31. The means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals of any one of Claims 28-30 wherein the connectors are spring clip connectors for connecting with electrically conducting pins.

25 32. The means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals of any one of Claims 28-31 wherein each outer electrically insulating member is clad with a further electrically insulating member.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 December 2000 (14.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/75080 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C02F 1/32,
F21V 19/00, B01J 19/12

ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP,
KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD,
SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ,
VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA99/00520

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM,
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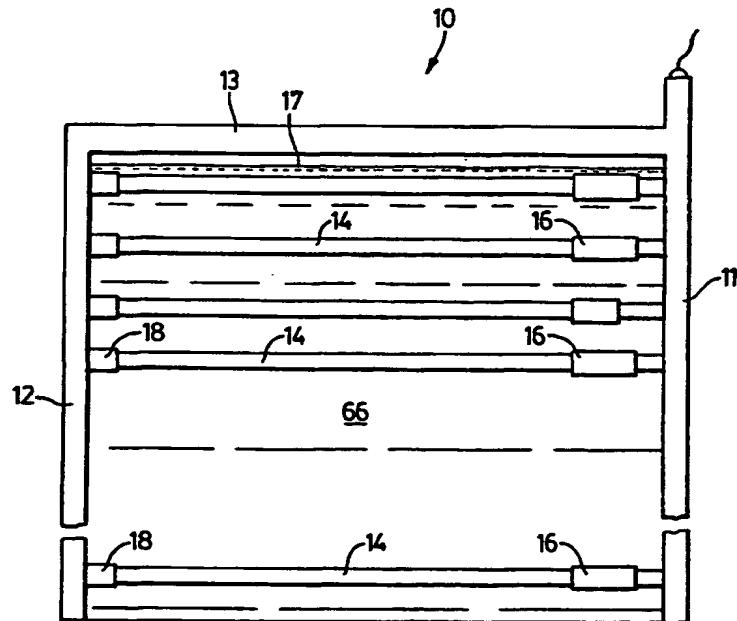
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT TREATMENT OF FLUIDS



(57) Abstract: A process is described, for treating liquids with radiation. One process involves passing the liquid over an ultraviolet lamp and ballast assembly which is submerged in the liquid. Apparatus for the process has an elongate frame member which is immersed in the liquid. Attached to the frame member and immersed in the liquid is a plurality of ultraviolet lamps and associated ballasts.

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APPARATUS FOR ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT TREATMENT OF FLUIDS

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus for ultraviolet treatment of fluids such as water. More particularly, the present invention relates to an apparatus that employs a particular arrangement of ballasts and ultraviolet lamps.

Background to the Invention

It is known to treat water with ultraviolet light in order to destroy undesirable bacteria and other microorganisms. For example, U.S. Patent 5 660 719 which issued August 26, 1997 to Kurtz et al. discloses an ultraviolet lamp rack assembly comprising an array of vertically disposed ultraviolet lamps for the treatment of fluids. The assembly has a separate enclosure for the housing at least one ballast and electronic components to power the lamps. Kurtz et al. indicate that substantial amounts of heat are generated during functioning of the ballast and that cooling is required. Cooling is provided by blowing air through the enclosure, or by means of air conditioning or the use of a heat exchanger.

Another arrangement is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5 019 256 which issued May 28, 1991 to Ifill et al. This patent discloses an ultraviolet lamp rack assembly comprising a vertical array of horizontally disposed ultraviolet lamps for the treatment of waste water. A power control panel is provided at a location remote from the rack assembly for the inclusion of ballasts and various electronic components. Alternatively, the ballasts for the lamps may be located in a submerged vertical conduit which forms a part of the rack. One of the problems associated with such an arrangement is that the ballasts are difficult to remove from the rack, and if one ballast needs to be replaced then all of the ballasts must be removed. This is inefficient, as the ultraviolet treatment unit is out of service for a long period of time. Variations of the device of U.S. Patent 5 019 256 to Ifill et al. are disclosed in U.S. Patents 4 482 809, 4 872 980 and 5 006 244 to J.M. Maarschalkerweerd which issued November 13, 1984, October 10, 1989 and April

9, 1991 respectively. The ballasts and power supply to the lamps are separate from the lamps and lamp racks.

Most commercial treatment systems for water, in which the water is treated with ultraviolet radiation, use ultraviolet lamps which have electrodes therein and are associated with ballasts. The present invention is also suitable for lamps which are electrodeless and are associated with high frequency excitation couplers. A description of a typical electrodeless lamp and coupler may be found in United States Patent 5 070 277 to W.P. Lapatovich which issued December 3, 1991.

The present invention attempts to overcome the deficiencies of the previous systems and provide a system which is easily maintained.

The term "wire", as used herein in relation to the present invention, includes a plurality of wires, e.g. as in a cable.

The terms "comprising/comprises" when used in this specification are taken to specify the presence of the stated features, integers, steps or components but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof.

Summary of the Invention

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention provides a radiation source assembly for use with a fluid, comprising:

at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use, the source producing radiation by excitation of a gas;

at least one excitation controlling means for controlling excitation of gas within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use;

a first elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use, the frame member being connected to at least one of a) the radiation source and b) the excitation controlling means; and

electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.

In one embodiment, the radiation source is a lamp for emitting ultraviolet radiation.

In another embodiment, the lamp has electrodes and the excitation controlling means is a ballast electrically connected to the lamp.

5 In a further embodiment, the lamp is an electrodeless lamp and the excitation controlling means is a high frequency coupler.

In another aspect of the present invention provides a radiation source assembly for use with a material selected from the group consisting of a liquid and a flowing fluid, comprising:

10 a) when the material is a liquid,

at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said liquid when the assembly is in use;

at least one excitation controlling means for controlling excitation of gas within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be 15 immersed in said liquid when the assembly is in use;

and electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means; or

b) when the material is a flowing fluid,

at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said flowing fluid 20 when the assembly is in use;

at least one excitation controlling means for controlling excitation of gas within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in said flowing fluid when the assembly is in use;

and electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the 25 excitation controlling means.

In yet another embodiment, the radiation source assembly has a first elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the liquid or flowing fluid when the assembly is in use, and the frame member is connected to at least one of the radiation source, a radiation-transparent sleeve for the radiation source and 30 the excitation controlling means.

In a further embodiment, the radiation source is adjacent to the excitation controlling means.

In one embodiment, the radiation source is a lamp for emitting ultraviolet radiation.

5 In another embodiment, the lamp has electrodes and the excitation controlling means is a ballast electrically connected to the lamp.

In a further embodiment, the lamp is an electrodeless lamp and the excitation controlling means is a high frequency coupler.

10 In another embodiment, the ballast is supported by the first elongate frame member.

In a further embodiment, the ballast is elongate and has first and second opposed ends, the first end of which is mounted on said portion, the lamp is elongate and has first and second opposed ends, the first end of which is connected to the second end of the ballast.

15 In another embodiment, the lamp is elongate and has first and second ends, the first end of which is connected to the ballast and the second end of the lamp is supported by the first elongate frame member.

In a further embodiment, the assembly has a plurality of excitation controlling means, each with a radiation source associated therewith.

20 In yet another embodiment, the assembly has a plurality of radiation sources connected to each excitation controlling means.

In another embodiment, the electrical conducting means includes, for each excitation controlling means, an electrical wire which extends from the excitation controlling means to a location which is not immersed in the liquid or flowing fluid.

25 In a further embodiment, all of the electrical wires have a coating which is in contact with the liquid or flowing fluid.

In another embodiment, the assembly has a second elongate frame member, and when each ballast is supported by the first elongate frame member, the second end of each associated lamp is supported by said second elongate frame member.

30 In another embodiment, the ballast and lamp are encased in a transparent sleeve which is fluid-tight.

In a further embodiment, the transparent sleeve is mounted at a first end with a fluid-tight connection to the portion of the first elongate frame member.

In another embodiment, the transparent sleeve is mounted at the first end with a fluid-tight connection to the portion of the first elongate frame member, and 5 mounted at a second end to the second elongate frame member.

In yet another embodiment, the first elongate frame member is tubular with an outer wall and, for each excitation controlling means, a support with an externally threaded tubular stub surrounding an access aperture through the outer wall, the excitation controlling means has an external retaining ring fixed adjacent 10 the first end thereof, the assembly further comprising an internally threaded coupling for engaging the stub and the retaining ring, so as to move the stub and the ring toward each other, and a resilient sealing member between the stub and the coupling such that the retaining ring is pressed against the exterior of the excitation controlling means when the coupling is tightened.

15 In a further embodiment, the assembly has a sleeve surrounding each radiation source, said sleeve having one open end and one closed end and being made of a material transparent to radiation emitted by the radiation source, and a further coupling which sealingly supports the open end of said sleeve from the second end of the excitation controlling means.

20 In a further embodiment, the excitation controlling means is a ballast and the radiation source is a lamp with electrodes.

Another aspect of the invention provides an assembly for use in a photochemical treatment of a fluid, comprising:

at least one radiation source for producing radiation by excitation of a gas;

25 at least one excitation controlling means adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use, for controlling excitation of the gas within the radiation source;

a submersible frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use and having a plurality of supports, each support 30 providing support for at least one of a) a radiation source, b) a radiation-transparent sleeve for the radiation source and b) an excitation controlling means; and

electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.

In one embodiment for treatment of a liquid, the assembly is selected from the group consisting of

- 5 A) an assembly in which the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said ballast having a second end opposed to a first end, and said ballast having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast and support having connection means for mechanically connecting the first end of the ballast to the support;
- 10 the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having first and second opposed ends, said lamp and ballast having connection means for mechanically and electrically connecting the first end of the lamp to the second end of the ballast; and
 and the assembly has means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid;
- 15 B) an assembly in which the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support;
 the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together; and
 the assembly has sealing means for sealing the lamp and ballast against direct
20 contact with the liquid;
- 25 C) an assembly in which the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp;
 the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together;
 and the assembly has a sleeve covering and sealing the lamp and ballast
against direct contact with the liquid, and the assembly has connection means for
mechanically connecting the sleeve means to the support; and
- 30 D) an assembly in which the excitation controlling means is a ballast, having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast having connection means for mechanically connecting the ballast to the support;

the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support separately from the ballast, and means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together.

5 In another embodiment, the means for sealing the lamp in embodiments A), B) or D) is a sleeve which is transparent to ultraviolet radiation.

In a further embodiment, submersible frame member is tubular, and the support surrounds an aperture in a side wall of the frame member, and the assembly further includes 1) a first electrical connection between the ballast and electrically 10 conductive means within the tubular frame member, said first electrical connection having the form of pins entering suitable sockets, and 2) a second electrical connection between the ballast and the ultraviolet lamp, said second electrical connection also having the form of pins entering suitable sockets.

15 In yet another embodiment, the assembly includes electrical power transmission means for transmitting electrical power from a power source to each ballast, said power transmission means being outside the submersible frame member.

Preferably, all connections are substantially water tight.

The present invention also provides an ultraviolet lamp assembly for 20 submersion in a liquid, comprising a rack with a submersible conduit, and at least one submersible ultraviolet lamp with associated submersible ballast wherein the ultraviolet lamp is removably coupled, physically and electrically, to an associated ballast and the ballast is removably coupled, physically, to the conduit such that when submerged, liquid cannot enter the conduit through the lamp and ballast 25 couplings.

In one embodiment, the conduit contains electrical power transmission means and the ballast is removably coupled, electrically, to the power transmission means.

In a further embodiment the power transmission means is selected from the group consisting of wire and electrically conductive strips.

30 In another embodiment, the ultraviolet lamp is encased in a sleeve which is transparent to ultraviolet light.

In a further embodiment, the conduit has a tubular stub attached thereto such that there is electrical communication between the ballast and the power transmission means.

In another embodiment, there is a screw coupling with a liquid tight seal
5 between the lamp, sleeve and ballast.

In yet another embodiment, there is a screw coupling and a liquid tight seal between the ballast and the conduit.

In another embodiment, the liquid is water.

The invention also provides a process for treating liquids with ultraviolet
10 light comprising passing the liquid over an ultraviolet lamp and ballast assembly which is submerged in the liquid.

Another aspect of the invention provides means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals, in the form of a laminate which comprises:

a plurality of elongated electrically conducting members, each with a
15 plurality of connectors at spaced apart intervals along the member, said electrically conducting members having an electrically insulating material between the members.

In one embodiment, each electrically conducting member is sandwiched between two electrically insulating strips, and at least one of the strips has notches
20 at spaced apart intervals along the strip, wherein the connectors are housed in the notches.

In another embodiment, the laminate has first and second elongated electrically conducting members, said first electrically conducting member being sandwiched between first and second electrically insulating members and said
25 second electrically conducting member being sandwiched between second and third electrically insulating members.

In a further embodiment, the connectors are spring clip connectors for connecting with electrically conducting pins.

In yet another embodiment, each outer electrically insulating member is clad
30 with a further electrically insulating member.

In another embodiment, the electrically conducting members are metal strips.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a partial side view of a single modular UV lamp rack assembly in accordance with the invention.

5 Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of a ballast and associated connections in accordance with the invention.

Figure 3, which is located between Figures 1 and 2, is an end view of a ballast used in Figure 2.

10 Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of a vertical conduit in a UV lamp rack assembly, useful in the present invention.

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of a ballast and lamp which has an outer sleeve attached to a submersible conduit.

15 Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of a ballast and an associated lamp which are separately attached to a submersible conduit.

Figure 7 is an exploded view of a laminate useful as an electrical conduit for use in the present invention.

Figure 8 is a front view of the laminate of Figure 7, with connecting apertures therein.

20 **Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments**

Referring to Figure 1, there is an ultraviolet lamp rack 10 which has a vertical conduit 11, a vertical support member 12 and a bar 13. Located between vertical conduit 11 and vertical member 12 are a plurality of ultraviolet lamps 14 encased in transparent sleeves 15 (partially seen in Figure 2), with associated ballasts 16 and caps 18. The sleeves 15 are made from a material which permits passage of ultraviolet light. A preferred material is quartz glass. The ultraviolet lamps 14 and ballasts 16 are submerged in liquid 66, e.g waste water. The surface of the liquid is shown at 17 and in Figure 1 is beneath bar 13.

25 Figure 2 shows the arrangement of one of the ballasts 16. Ballast 16 has internal components 22 encased in sleeve 21. At one end of ballast 16 there are female electrical connectors 20 for cooperation with electrical pins 19 on ultraviolet

lamp 14. At the other end of ballast 16 there is an electrical line pin 23 and an electrical neutral pin 24. Between line pin 23 and neutral pin 24 there is an electrical insulation barrier 25. Attached to sleeve 21 is a retaining ring 26, the purpose of which will be explained hereinafter.

5 Figure 2 also shows vertical conduit 11 in which there are female electrical connectors 34 and 35, which are electrically connected to electrical conduits, e.g. wires, strips. There is an aperture 36 adjacent to connectors 34 and 35, through which pins 23 and 24 may be connected to connectors 34 and 35 respectively. Attached, e.g. welded, to vertical conduit 11 is a tubular stub 29, which has an
10 exterior screw thread, as shown in Figures 2 and 4. Ballast 16 is held in place by means of an internally screw threaded coupling 27. The joint between ballast 16 and tubular stub 29 is made watertight by means of an O-ring 28 which is trapped between retaining ring 26 and tubular stub 29.

As indicated above, the ultraviolet light lamp 14 is electrically connected to
15 ballast 16 by means of pins 19 and female connectors 20. At the end of ballast 16 adjacent to the connectors 20, there is a tubular stub 31 which has an external screw thread 31a. Tubular stub 31 is connected to sleeve 21 by a weld or similar. It will be understood that tubular stub 31 may be an integral part of sleeve 21. Quartz sleeve 15 surrounds ultraviolet lamp 14. The connection between the quartz sleeve
20 15 and tubular stub 31, and thus between ultraviolet lamp 14 and ballast 16, is kept waterproof by means of an O-ring 33 which is trapped between tubular stub 31 and internally threaded retaining nut 32.

It will be understood that other arrangements for securing the ballast and
lamps in place are possible without departing from the essence of the invention. For
25 example, sleeve 16 and tubular stub 29 may have the same diameter, and abutting ends may be externally threaded and held together with an internally threaded coupling which screws onto both the sleeve and the stub.

Figure 3 shows an end of ballast 16, which has line and neutral pins 23 and 24 separated by an electrical insulation barrier 25. The ballast end may have
30 auxiliary pins 38 for alarms and other features.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate different arrangements of a ballast and an ultraviolet lamp. In Figure 5, ballast 70 is electrically and mechanically connected to ultraviolet lamp 71. Ballast 70 and lamp 71 are enveloped in sleeve 72. Sleeve 72 has a closed end 73 and an open end 74. Open end 74 fits over and is supported by tubular stub 75 which is welded to a vertically arranged tubular conduit 76. There is an aperture in conduit 76 so that there may be electrical communication through conduit 76 to the ballast 70 inside sleeve 72. Electrical communication is accomplished through wires 77 which are appropriately connected to ballast 70. Sleeve 72 is sealed against ingress of fluid, e.g. liquid, outside the sleeve, by means of O-ring 78 or similar. Figure 5 also shows closed end 73 of sleeve 72 being supported in a cavity 79 in vertically arranged support member 80.

In Figure 6, ballast 90 is physically separated from ultraviolet lamp 91, although ballast 90 and lamp 91 are electrically connected by wires 92. Lamp 91 is enveloped in sleeve 93. Sleeve 93 has a closed end 94 and an open end 95. Open end 95 fits over and is supported by tubular stub 96 which is welded to vertically arranged tubular conduit 97. There is an aperture in conduit 97 so that there may be electrical communication through conduit 97 to the ballast 90. Ballast 90, which has a threaded end, is mechanically supported by externally threaded stub 98 and internally threaded coupling 99. There is an O-ring 100 trapped between ballast 90 and stub 98 to provide a seal to prevent ingress of fluid into the electrical connections for the ballast and lamp. Ballast 90 has power supply wires 101 connected thereto. Sleeve 93 is sealed against ingress of fluid, e.g. liquid, outside the sleeve, by means of O-ring 102 or similar. Closed end 94 of sleeve 93 has a boot 103 surrounding closed end 94, and boot 103 is supported in a cavity 104 in vertically arranged support member 105.

Figures 7 and 8 illustrate a power and signal laminate 39 which comprises a plurality of strips 40 to 46. The centre strip 43 has a notch 53 therein for receiving electrical insulation barrier 25. If there are a plurality of ballasts to be connected to the power and signal laminate, it will be understood that there will be a notch for every ballast. Figure 7 shows three such notches. Centre strip 43 is sandwiched between strips 42 and 44. Strip 42 is sandwiched between strips 43 and 41 and strip

44 is sandwiched between strips 43 and 45. Attached to strip 42, between strips 41 and 42 is an electrically conducting power strip 50 (see Figure 7) with a plurality of spring clips 49 attached thereto. Attached to strip 44, between strips 44 and 45 is a power strip 47 with a plurality of spring clips 48 attached thereto. Strips 41 and 45 have a plurality of notches 52 and 51 respectively, for reception of electrical pins 23 and 24 respectively. Spring clips 49 nest within notches 52 and spring clips 48 nest within notches 51. Spring clips 48 are for providing secure electrical connection between power strip 47 and electrical pins 24. Spring clips 49 are for providing secure electrical connection between power strip 50 and electrical pins 23. The 10 laminate 39 has outer strips 40 and 46.

The laminate shown in Figure 8 also has notches 54 and 56 in outer strips 46 and 40 respectively. In notches 54 and 56 there are power strips with spring connectors 55 and 57 respectively therein.

Although not shown, microprocessor chips may be embedded between strips 15 so that the microprocessor chips are protected from the environment, e.g. are protected from water damage. The chips can be used for a variety of purposes, e.g. to monitor the lamps, ballasts, excitation couplers and other electrical or electronic components, and trigger alarms at alarm remote panels.

It will be understood that electrical pins 23 and 24 form an electrical 20 connection with power strips 47 and 50 when pushed into spring clips 48 and 49 respectively. Connectors 55 and 57 are preferably for auxiliary connections, e.g for detection of burnt-out lamps, defective ballasts, leaking joints and the like.

Although the drawings show electrical power being fed to ballasts 16 by means of wires or laminates through conduit 11, electrical power may be fed to 25 ballast 16 through means external to conduit 11. In such an instance, waterproof wires may be used, which enter a waterproof coupling to the ballast. As will be understood, in such an instance, conduit 11 could be replaced by a submersible tube or bar which merely supports ballast 16. Such support may be provided by a flexible or rigid boot attached to the submersible bar. Alternatively, the ballast may 30 be physically separated from the lamp as shown in Figure 6.

The present invention is useful for the treatment of a wide range of fluids, e.g. gases and liquids. It is preferable that the fluid is flowing around the radiation source and the excitation controlling means. For example, a rack with attached ballasts and ultraviolet lamps is immersed in a flowing gas so that a stream of gas flows over the ultraviolet lamps.

The present invention is particularly useful for the treatment of water, e.g. for waste water disinfection, drinking water disinfection, advanced oxidation treatment and other water treatment processes. The rack with attached ballasts and ultraviolet lamps preferably is immersed in the water so that a stream of water flows over the ultraviolet lamps. Electric power is fed to the lamps via the ballasts, preferably by means of wires or laminates of the present invention though a tubular member of the rack. One of the advantages of this aspect of the present invention is that the water that is being treated can be used to cool the ballasts. This removes the necessity for external forced air cooling or for air conditioning equipment. Furthermore, the ballasts can easily be serviced in situ, removed from service or replaced in the same way that ultraviolet lamps may be serviced or replaced. Any downtime for operation is thus kept to a minimum. In the Ifill et al. apparatus, if a ballast, which is present in vertical conduit 15 becomes defective, all of the ballasts and associated wiring must be removed from the conduit, repaired and then reinserted. The present invention is a great improvement over Ifill's invention and other known systems.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the life of ballasts or excitation couplers should be greater because they are kept cooler.

It will be understood that the present invention is applicable to low pressure standard output lamps, low pressure high output lamps, low pressure triple output (amalgam) lamps, medium pressure lamps, electrodeless lamps and excimer lamps.

Although the drawings have been limited to showing installation of a system with ballasts and ultraviolet lamps, the present invention is equally applicable to other radiation sources and other excitation controlling means. For example, electrodeless ultraviolet lamps or video projection lamps or street lamps may be used with high frequency, e.g. radio frequency, excitation couplers.

While several embodiments of this invention have been illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described hereinabove, it will be evident to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the essence of this invention, as set forth in the appended claims.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

5

1. A radiation source assembly for use with a fluid, comprising:
at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use, the source producing radiation by excitation of a gas;

10 within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use;

an elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use, the frame member being connected to at least one of the radiation source and the excitation controlling means; and

15 electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.

2. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the radiation source has electrodes and the excitation controlling means is a ballast electrically connected to the radiation source.

3. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 2 wherein the radiation source is a lamp for emitting ultraviolet radiation.

25 4. A radiation source assembly for use with a material selected from the group consisting of a liquid and a flowing fluid, comprising:

a) when the material is a liquid

at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said liquid when the assembly is in use;

30 at least one excitation controlling means for controlling excitation of gas within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in said liquid when the assembly is in use;

and electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means, or

b) when the material is a flowing fluid

at least one radiation source adapted to be immersed in said flowing fluid

5 when the assembly is in use;

at least one excitation controlling means for controlling excitation of gas within the radiation source, said excitation controlling means being adapted to be immersed in said flowing fluid when the assembly is in use;

and electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the

10 excitation controlling means.

5. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the radiation source is an ultraviolet lamp and the excitation controlling means is a ballast.

15 6. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 5 in which the assembly has an elongate frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the liquid or flowing fluid when the assembly is in use, and the frame member is connected to at least one of a) the ultraviolet lamp, b) an ultraviolet-transparent sleeve for the ultraviolet lamp and c) the ballast.

20

7. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the lamp is an electrodeless lamp and the excitation controlling means is a high frequency coupler.

25 8. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the radiation source is an ultraviolet lamp with electrodes and the excitation controlling means is a ballast electrically connected to the lamp.

9. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the ultraviolet lamp is adjacent to the ballast.

30

10. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the ballast is supported by said elongate frame member.

11. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 10 wherein, when the material is a liquid, the ballast is elongate and has first and second opposed ends, the first end of which is mounted on a portion of the first elongate frame member which is to be immersed in the liquid, the lamp is elongate and has first and second opposed ends, the first end of which is connected to the second end of the ballast.

10 12. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the electrical conducting means includes, for each excitation controlling means, an electrical wire which extends from the excitation controlling means to a location which is not immersed in the liquid or flowing fluid.

15 13. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the assembly has a further elongate frame member, and the second end of each associated lamp is supported by said further elongate frame member.

20 14. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the first elongate frame member is tubular with an outer wall and wherein there is, for each ballast, a support with an externally threaded tubular stub surrounding an access aperture through the outer wall, the ballast having an external retaining ring fixed adjacent the first end thereof, the assembly further comprising an internally threaded coupling for engaging the stub and the retaining ring, so as to move the stub and the ring toward each other, and a resilient sealing member between the stub and the coupling such that the retaining ring is pressed against the exterior of the excitation controlling means when the coupling is tightened.

25 15. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the assembly has a sleeve surrounding each radiation source, said sleeve having one open end and one closed end and being made of a material transparent to radiation emitted by the

radiation source, and a further coupling which sealingly supports the open end of said sleeve from the second end of the excitation controlling means.

16. A radiation source assembly for use in a photochemical treatment of a fluid

5 comprising:

at least one radiation source for producing radiation by excitation of a gas;

at least one excitation controlling means adapted to be immersed in said fluid when the assembly is in use, for controlling excitation of the gas within the radiation source;

10 a submersible frame member having a portion adapted to be immersed in the fluid when the assembly is in use and having a plurality of supports, each support providing support for at least one of a) a radiation source, b) a radiation-transparent sleeve for the radiation source and c) an excitation controlling means; and

15 electrical conducting means for providing electrical energy to the excitation controlling means.

17. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 16 for treatment of a liquid wherein the assembly is selected from the group consisting of

A) an assembly in which the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said ballast having a second end opposed to a first end, and said ballast having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast and support having connection means for mechanically connecting the first end of the ballast to the support;

20 the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having first and second opposed ends, said lamp and ballast having connection means for mechanically and electrically connecting the first end of the lamp to the second end of the ballast; and

25 and the assembly has means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid;

B) an assembly in which the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support;

the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together; and

the assembly has sealing means for sealing the lamp and ballast against direct contact with the liquid;

5 C) an assembly in which the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp;

the excitation controlling means is a ballast, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together;

and the assembly has a sleeve covering and sealing the lamp and ballast against direct contact with the liquid, and the assembly has connection means for

10 mechanically connecting the sleeve means to the support; and

D) an assembly in which the excitation controlling means is a ballast, having an outer sleeve which encloses components of the ballast, the sleeve being sealed to prevent ingress of liquid into the ballast, said ballast having connection means for mechanically connecting the ballast to the support;

15 the radiation source is an elongate ultraviolet lamp having connection means for mechanically connecting the lamp to the support separately from the ballast, and means for sealing the lamp against direct contact with the liquid, said lamp and ballast having means for electrically connecting them together.

20 18. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the tubular elongate frame member contains electrical power transmission means and the ballast is removably coupled, electrically, to the power transmission means.

25 19. A radiation source assembly according to Claim 16 wherein each radiation source is an ultraviolet lamp, each excitation controlling means is a ballast, each lamp has an ultraviolet transparent sleeve and there is a screw coupling with a liquid tight seal between the lamp, sleeve and ballast.

30 20. A process for treating liquids with ultraviolet light comprising passing the liquid over an ultraviolet lamp and ballast assembly which is submerged in the liquid.

21. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals, in form of a laminate which comprises:

5 a plurality of elongated electrically conducting members, each with a plurality of connectors at spaced apart intervals along the member, said electrically conducting members having an electrically insulating material between the members.

10 22. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals according to Claim 21 wherein each electrically conducting member is sandwiched between two electrically insulating strips, and at least one of the strips has notches at spaced apart intervals along the strip, wherein the connectors are housed in the notches.

15 23. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals according to Claim 21 which has first and second elongated electrically conducting members, said first electrically conducting member being sandwiched between first and second electrically insulating members and said second electrically conducting member being sandwiched between second and third electrically insulating members.

20 24. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals according to Claim 21 wherein the connectors are spring clip connectors for connecting with electrically conducting pins.

25 25. A means for transmission of electrical power and electrical signals according to Claim 21 wherein each outer electrically insulating member is clad with a further electrically insulating member.

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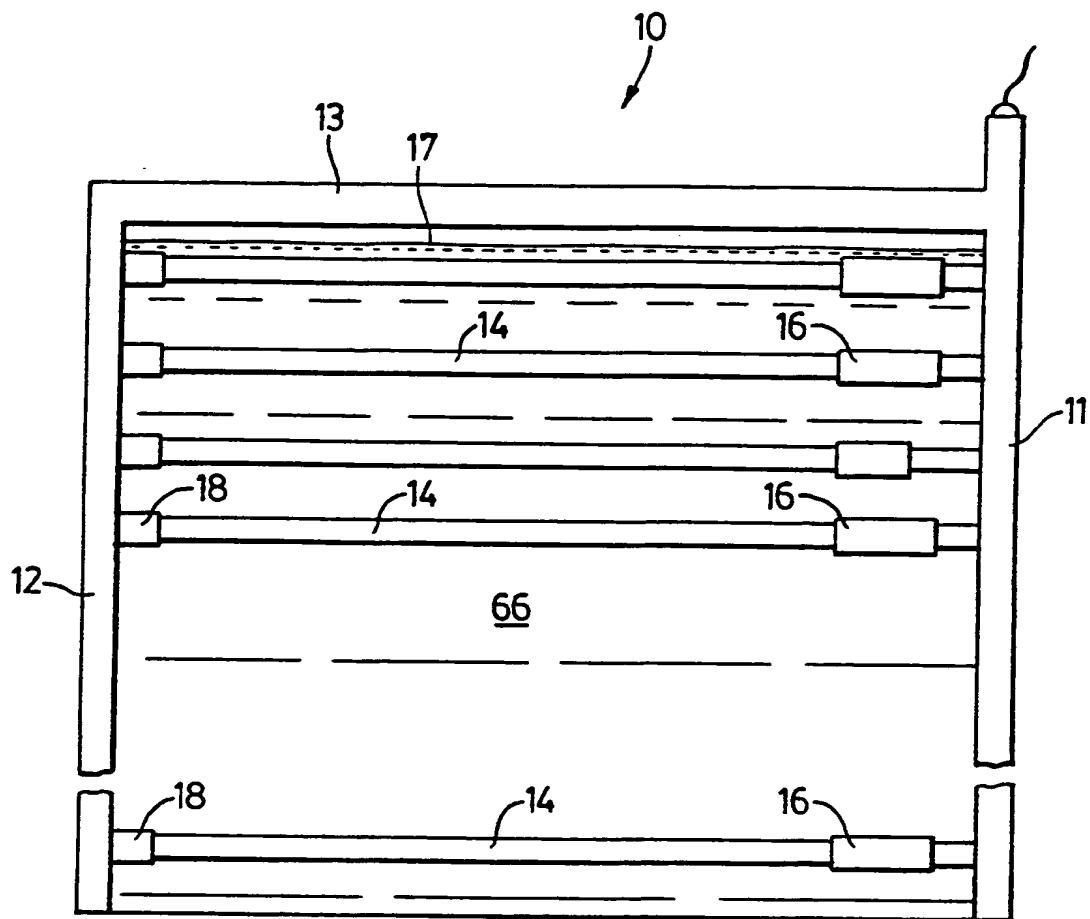


FIG. 1

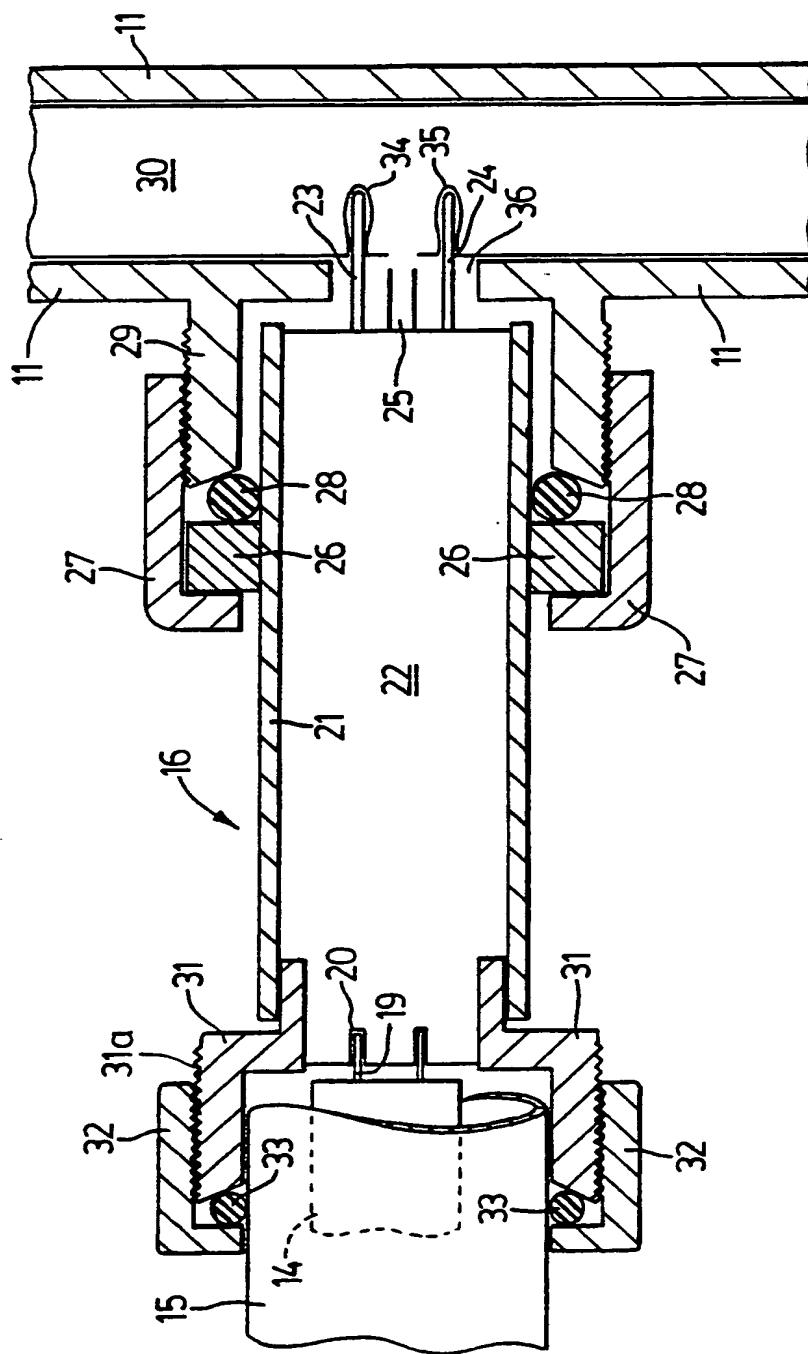
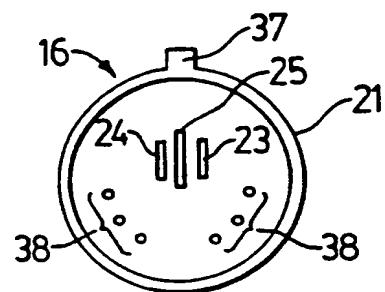
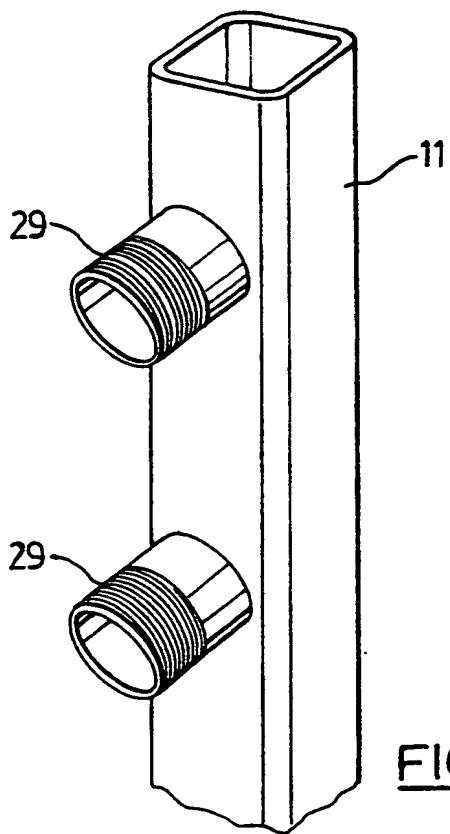


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3FIG. 4

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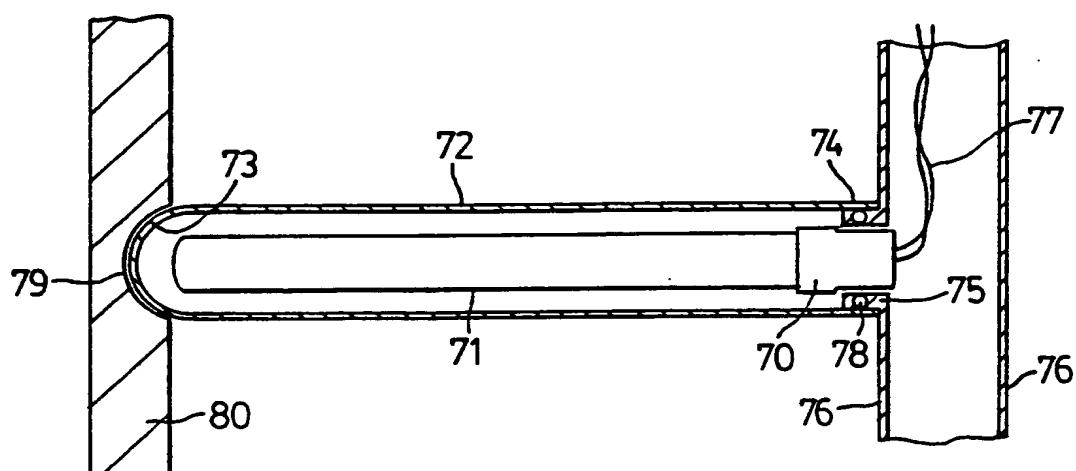


FIG. 5

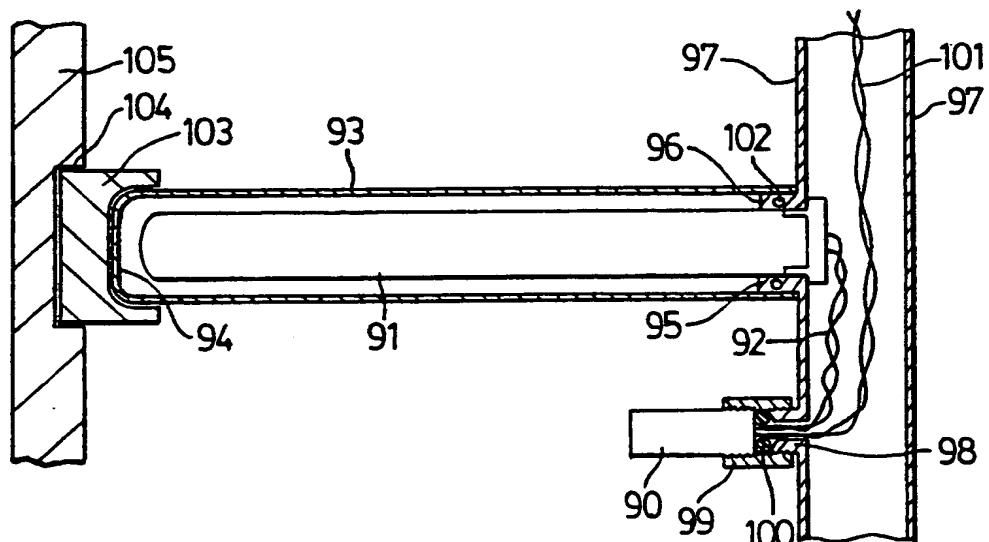


FIG. 6

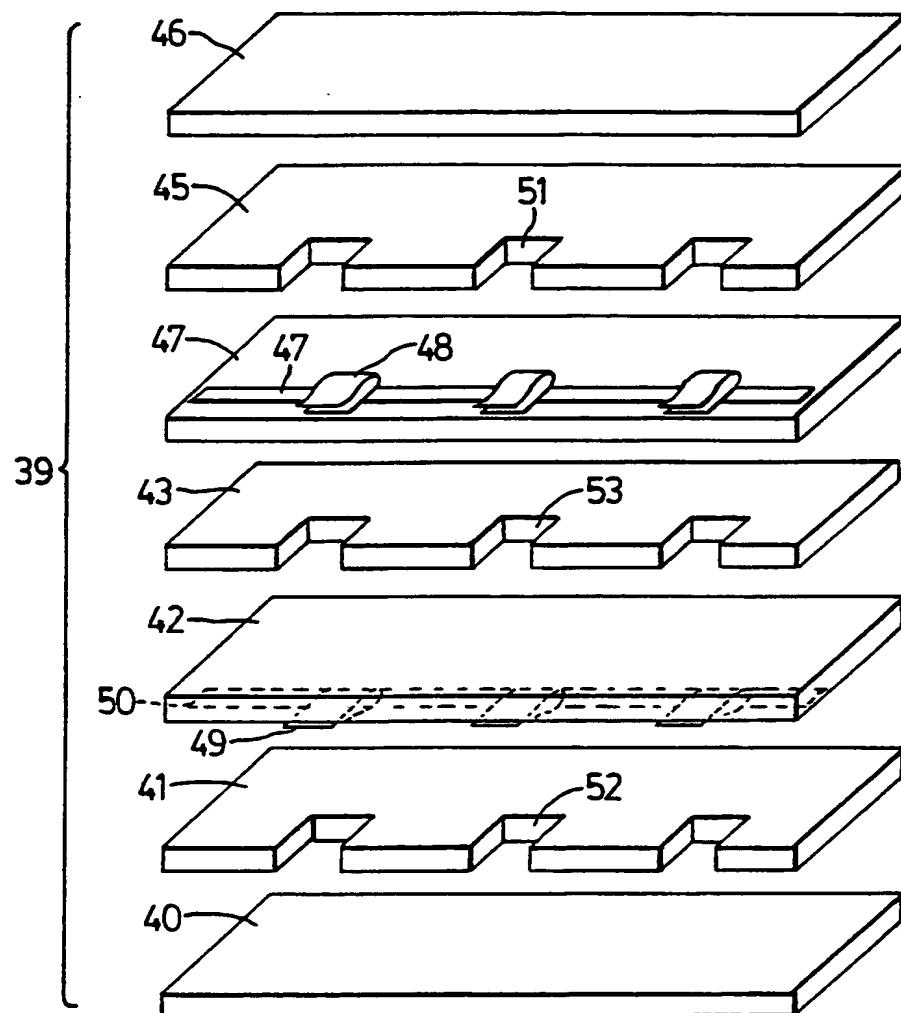


FIG. 7

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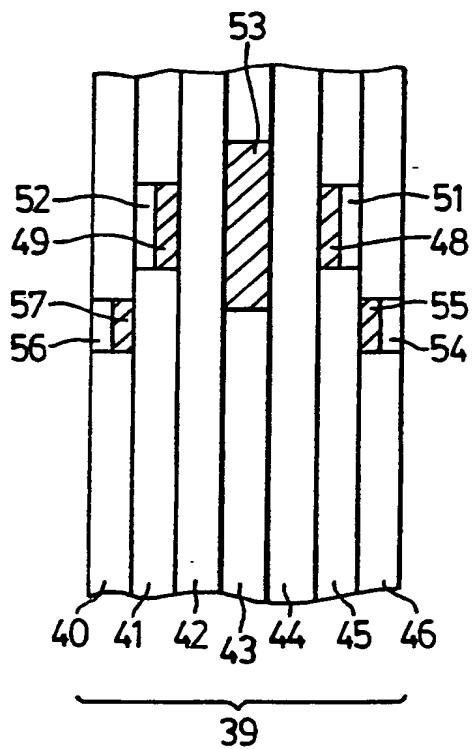


FIG. 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/CA 99/00520

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C02F1/32 F21V19/00 B01J19/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 C02F B01J A61L F21P F21V

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US 5 019 256 A (IFILL LEE ET AL) 28 May 1991 (1991-05-28) cited in the application column 6, line 58-64; figures | 1-10, 16, 20 |
| A | --- | 11-15, 17-19 |
| X | US 5 412 549 A (BLAKELY MARK K) 2 May 1995 (1995-05-02) column 3, line 3-10; figure 6 | 1, 2, 4 |
| A | --- | 1-10, 16-20 |
| A | DE 196 53 083 A (WEDECO GMBH) 25 June 1998 (1998-06-25) the whole document | 1-10, 16-20 |
| A | --- | 1-10, 16, 20 |
| A | EP 0 811 579 A (TROJAN TECHN INC) 10 December 1997 (1997-12-10) the whole document | 1-10, 16, 20 |
| | --- | -/- |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 February 2000

29.09.00

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Appl. No.

PCT/CA 99/00520

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 539 209 A (MAARSCHALKERWEIRD JAN M) 23 July 1996 (1996-07-23) the whole document --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | US 5 792 433 A (KADOYA MASAHIRO) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) the whole document --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | US 4 825 083 A (JOHNSON JOHN A ET AL) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) figures 1,3,5,6 --- | 1-10,16, 20 |
| A | DE 197 36 631 C (HANSA METALLWERKE AG) 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29) column 4, line 10-24; figure 1 ----- | 1,11,16, 17,20 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA 99/00520

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-20

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-20

Radiation source assembly and methode for use with a fluid comprising a radiation source adapted to be immersed in said liquid, excitation controlling means adapted to be immersed in the fluid and a frame member having a potion adapted to be immersed in the fluid.

2. Claims: 21-25

Means for transmitting electrical power and electrical signals to a plurality of devices receiving electrical power or electrical signals.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 99/00520

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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International Application No

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